Punjab's Kidney Racket

*100.SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:
SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Punjab's Kidney Industry", which appeared in the Frontline, dated February, 1-14,2003;

(b) if so, the details of organ trade reported in various States during the last three years, State-wise and category-wise;

(c) the details of steps taken to prevent organ trade; and

(d) whether a detailed inquiry is likely to be initiated on the commercialisation of medicine and organ trade as stated in the report?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to $_{v}$d) Sale and purchase of human organs including kidney is banned under the provisions of the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994. The Act has stringent provisions for punishing any one who commits such acts. Under Section 13(2) of the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994, the State Governments are empowered to appoint Appropriate Authorities for the purpose of the Act who are empowered to investigate any complaints of breach of provisions of the Act including those pertaining to sale and purchase of human organs including kidney. The Act has been adopted by all the States (including Andhra Pradesh which has its own Act) except Bihar.

As per the report of the Government of Punjab, Special Investigation Team is investigating the case of organ transplantation. Investigations are in progress and many persons have been arrested. The State Government has also reported that the permission/registration of Ram Saran Das Kishori Lai Hospital, Amritsar, where such activities were reported, has been withdrawn on 20.01.2003. State Government of Punjab have also issued new guidelines to protect the donors from exploitation. They have also set up a High Level Committee to review the status of organ transplantation, guidelines and other relevant issues.